

served them faithfully for a longer or shorter period since their existence as a deliberating body; but if the appointment rest with themselves, what necessity can there have been for the interference of another power, and the interposition of another order, especially when that power is rendered merely nominal, and that order completely nugatory, by a subsequent provision, which leaves the power where it originally existed?

"In conclusion, gentlemen, if it had not been from a firm conviction of the reasonableness of the views and observations herein contained, and of the appropriate application of the question, *cui bono*, to your late order and provisions for medical qualification, I should not have been induced again to intrude myself upon your notice. I am, Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

"T. HERBERT BARKER.

"Bedford, June 14, 1842."

WHAT IS CALLED "THE WATER CURE."

Audi alterem partem.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—You inserted last week a paper from an anonymous correspondent, attacking the water cure and myself as its advocate; as it contains abuse and scurrility of a nature personal to myself, as well as deliberate falsehood with reference to the facts which I stated, you cannot refuse a gentleman, who has been so many years one of your subscribers, a short space to right himself, and to put your numerous readers in possession of the truth. The paper is headed "Hydropathy*—Itinerant Physicians." It purports to be a critique of a supposed lecture I delivered at the "Hydropathic Society;" I can only say that I never promised, professed, or intended to deliver a lecture there; I was asked to give some information, in any way I pleased, on the cure of diseases by water (having spent above twelve months in studying the practice, and noting the results on nearly two thousand patients, as well as having undergone the treatment myself for nearly the whole of that time), and to listen in my turn to any observations or cases from others: I related a case of madness I saw cured. My critic says the madness

* This ridiculous term, I beg to say, is none of mine, and in no part of my work do I use it. I do not profess to treat of watery disease, as the name would imply, but to cure disease by water; but it is more than probable your contributor knew nothing of the derivation of the term. I may moreover mention, that I do not call the system the "cold-water cure," as they who understand the powers of water employ it at various temperatures, according to circumstances.

took place "after dinner," "most likely the result of intoxication." This is not true. The patient became furious *before dinner*; and in the establishment there was no possibility of obtaining any liquid stronger than milk. He says further, "The temperature of the cold bath, according to Dr. W., is not precisely that which we find to obtain in this country, the *Grafenburg* (Graefenberg) cold bath being at 86°!" This is a wilful falsehood, and a deliberate misstatement. He next says very triumphantly, "We may ask Dr. Wilson if he has heard of any of these adventurers and charlatans having returned to England?" Dr. Wilson replies, most assuredly "yes;" and when they do arrive they might be greeted by a whole regiment of brothers, of every fashion, shade, and denomination, who they will find at home. But this is a polite insinuation about myself which cannot be mistaken. I can only say that I am so fortunate as to have a sufficient income to travel on the continent with my family as long as I please, when health or information are the plea; and enough, when I return, to live in *dear*, dear England in comfort without practising my profession, if I could endure idleness.

Now let me ask, my dear Mr. Editor, who is this our "we," this great "anonymous?" I will tell you. * * * I am, your obedient servant,

JAMES WILSON.

18, Sackville-street, Piccadilly,

June 18, 1842.

* * Dr. Wilson having found the report in this Journal, it is quite enough for him to attack the work in which he *knows* it has appeared, without *guessing* at and vilifying any particular person as the author of the report. We therefore omit all the nonsense that stood in the place of the above asterisks.—ED. L.

CASE FOR OPINION.

To the Editor of THE LANCET.

SIR,—Permit me to request that you will insert the following statement of my case in the columns of your widely-spread Journal. I am induced to make this request in the hopes that some of your talented correspondents who have made it the business of their lives to ascertain the causes of, and the remedies for, those diseases of the flesh to which all men are heir, and which add so much to the burdens of this life, may be induced to inform me—if, indeed, it be in their power—of some remedy or palliative for the dreadful disease under which I labour.

I am not yet fifty years of age; my father died of gout in the stomach, and at the age of sixteen I was first attacked with inflammatory gout in the extremities: these attacks at first were not of long duration, and considerable spaces of time intervened between them. My profession was that of a civil